



Governor's Task Force  
On the Humane Treatment of Animals

Meeting Minutes for July 12,, 2006

The following people were present:

Senator Sheila Roberge,	Representative Nancy Johnson,	
Roni McCall,	Mel Liston	Steve Sprowl
Lisa Hall	Maureen Prendergast	Joanne Bourbeau
Dick Wentzell	Russell Pope	Michael Hughes
Joyce Matott	Michael Hughes	Russell Pope
Mark Ellingwood	David Stowe	Jeri Zezula
Dori Wynott	Rachelle Wynott	Jean Slepian
Virginia Hokenstrom	Alex Koutroubas	
Patrick Murphy Aide to Senator Roberge		

- Senator Roberge opened the meeting at 2:02m

The subcommittees met before the taskforce meeting. A summary of those meetings is below:

Law subcommittee summary

Went over a document provided by the Animal Legal Defense Fund showing the various states and how they are rated - NH rates fairly well. NH made the top tier of this study.

Enforcment of the law is the issue for this committee, and educating the powers that be Judges, Prosecutors etc. of the importance of animal cruelty laws.

1. Hoarder law - passed in Illinois - requires mandatory psychological counseling for animal hoarding or cruelty convictions as part of the criteria - NH doesn't have this in our law.

2. Law passed in Vermont in May to provide protective order in domestic violence cases. The judge would have the authority to decide the disposition of the animal in the home.

3. A bill in CT to require the State board of education to provide on a local level humane education in the schools. Rather than get the State to approve such a mandate.

Education subcommittee summary:

Cruelty to animals in the classroom - Maureen uses this for 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Dr. Zezula will look into seeing what is needed to give to the teachers (i.e. lesson plans etc.).

State Wide press releases - Joanne Bourbeau provided the committee with a list of all the newspapers, radio stations etc.

One PSA a month - 12 topics:

Hot dogs in cars

Children committing cruelty

Pets in Pickup trucks

Domestic violence

Safe Haven for animals

Fighting

Hoarding

Grooming

Shelters for horses, dog shelters

Enforcement of Humane Laws

Funding subcommittee summary:

Transfer stamp - Sharon King register of Deeds for Sullivan County gave the following information currently \$15.00 per 160million propose adding 25cents to raise funds to pay for the care of the animals in these cases.

Each county gets 4% of this money - our fund would not get it until the money goes to the state and that would not impact the local city, towns.

In order for this to happen - it would require legislation. - they would need to be a paid administrator at the state level for that fund - 2.5 million dollar is the current real estate market.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax is an existing program, earmarking it and increasing it to will raise the required funds.

3 members of this taskforce are on the dog fighting taskforce. Maureen, Joanne and Steve are on this committee and can bring back to our taskforce updates. Not currently meeting over the summer.

Peter Marsh gave an overview of how the spay neuter fund works. The state treasurer administers the money, kept in a separate account, and the state agency draws on it through a warrant for funds to the state treasurer. The state treasurer will either draw it out of the general funds or whatever fund the monies are in. For all the dedicated accounts if they have money left in the account at the end of the year the money goes back into that account for the next year.

Discussion on dedicated fund again - the state is not going to allow this money to go to a non-profit to manage - all the funds would have to be managed by the state. So the legislation would have to include the hiring of someone to manage this fund - per Mel Liston.

- Revisions to the 3 subcommittees are as follows:

Education:	Funding:	Improving Laws:
Jeri Zezula	Sheila Presby	Mike Hughes
Joyce Matott	Lisa Hall	Russ Pope
Elin Phinizy	Cassandra Gatsas	Peter Marsh
Maureen Prendergast	Ken Murphy	Steve Crawford
Dorinne Whynott	Mel Liston	Jeri Zezula
Rachelle Whynott	Dick Wentzell	Steve Sprowl
David Stowe		George Cook
		Joanne Bourbeau

Website:

Committee Jeri Zezula, Nancy Johnson and Roni McCall - Dr. Zezula is the webmaster. - send minutes to Jeri and she will put them in PDF format - The webpage link is <http://nhcruelty.home.comcast.net/>

To be added to the website:

Links for National organization and NH organizations.

Frequently asked questions page

Latest News

Animal Cruelty from across NH

Volunteers Sign up page for need (i.e. when we have a bill that needs people to go to hearing or speak at the hearings).

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

- The next taskforce meeting is August 9th at 2pm. The Subcommittees will meet at 1pm before the taskforce meeting. The meetings will be held in LOB307
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Minutes submitted by Roni McCall, Through Their Eyes, The National Animal Abuse Registry.